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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 21, 2007

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ALTURAS PHYSICIAN SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS IN PRISON FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that former physician OWEN MURPHY PANNER, JR., 60, of Alturas, California was sentenced to a three year term of imprisonment by United States District Judge Garland E. Burrell, Jr. for possession of child pornography.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by the Modoc County Sheriff's Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the United States Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Samuel Wong, who prosecuted the case, on July 18, 2001, PANNER covertly recorded on videotape a pelvic examination of a 15-year old female patient in his medical office in Alturas, California, using a microcamera carried in his breast pocket to capture the images of her genitalia on the videotape. On October 18, 2001, PANNER used a miniature camera secreted in the air vent above the examination table to record on videotape the breast and pelvic examination of a 16-year old female patient performed by a nurse practitioner in an examination room at the Modoc Medical Clinic.

In October 2004, two hunters in a sage brush field in Modoc County discovered the two videotapes, which had been concealed in a Tupperware-type container and buried in the ground. They

notified law enforcement of their discovery.

PANNER was also ordered to serve three years of supervision by the United States Probation office following service of his prison term. As a condition of release, he will be required to stay away from the victims. PANNER was also required to comply with applicable federal and state registration requirements for sex offenders. PANNER previously had lost his license to practice medicine.

In sentencing the defendant, Judge Burrell described the defendant's conduct as "appalling and deplorable," and observed that the minor victims were "devastated by Panner's violation of their privacy." Two victims addressed the court during the sentencing hearing recounting how PANNER's conduct continues to affect them.

Following the hearing, PANNER was remanded into the custody of the United States Marshals to commence service of his prison sentence.

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